At the start of the research project, my initial idea of a topic was based on engineering, because I was looking at an engineering career pathway. After some background research on it, I found that there are many different areas of engineering. Being very interested in the applications of physics and mathematics, I then started to search for engineering areas that incorporated them, in the end I have chosen to research about the Structural area of it. However just having a topic made me hesitant on what I wanted to research in-depth about, so I narrowed the topic to a specific area “How it contributes to society”. The reason behind choosing this topic was because I wanted to know how engineers would affect society if I had to become one. After summiting in my final research topic, a teacher recommended me to use a revised topic “How Structural engineering benefits society”.

My research process included using the internet as major information resource, and also looking for magazines (science mags and engineering mags) and books. While researching how structural engineering itself would benefit society, I’ve discovered that most of the benefits were also logically shared between the other areas of engineering, like the safety and stability of structures through deciding what materials are to be used. I will need to be careful of what websites, books and magazines I use as some of them might not be very accurate to our modern era and might have information that is not very ethical to display. I’ve decided to use the “C.R.A.P” system, which means Currency, Reliability, Authority, and Purpose. Currency basically means how recent the information is, or when it was last updated. Reliability refers to what information is on the site or book, and if the author has included any references. Authority reflects on who the author, or contributors of a site, is and their credentials. Purpose is how the information is displayed, is it informative or opinionative.

Most of the research so far is mostly about structural engineering in general, what the engineers do etc, and how engineering, in general, contributes to society.

After about the second week of my research, I’ve found it harder and harder to find relevant websites for information, so I’ve started to construct a survey and focused more on magazines and books.

Also during the research, I’ve also learnt more about the career pathway of engineer, which has developed my “Personal Development” capability. As I have learnt more about the career pathway, I’ve build more confidence about following this pathway, knowing what is required, and what I will be doing if I am successful in this career.

Word count 442